

Subpart 246.4—Government Contract Quality Assurance

246.402 Government contract quality assurance at source.

Do not require Government contract quality assurance at source for contracts or delivery orders valued below \$250,000, unless—

- (1) Mandated by DoD regulation;
- (2) Required by a memorandum of agreement between the acquiring department or agency and the contract administration agency; or
- (3) The contracting officer determines that—
 - (i) Contract technical requirements are significant (*e.g.*, the technical requirements include drawings, test procedures, or performance requirements);
 - (ii) The product being acquired—
 - (A) Has critical characteristics;
 - (B) Has specific features identified that make Government contract quality assurance at source necessary; or
 - (C) Has specific acquisition concerns identified that make Government contract quality assurance at source necessary; and
 - (iii) The contract is being awarded to—
 - (A) A manufacturer or producer; or
 - (B) A non-manufacturer or non-producer and specific Government verifications have been identified as necessary and feasible to perform.

[70 FR 8543, Feb. 22, 2005]

246.404 Government contract quality assurance for acquisitions at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

Do not require Government contract quality assurance at source for contracts or delivery orders valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold unless the criteria at 246.402 have been met.

[70 FR 8543, Feb. 22, 2005]

246.406 Foreign governments.

(1) *Quality assurance among North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries.* (i) NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 4107, Mutual Acceptance of Government Quality Assurance and Usage of the Allied Quality Assurance Publications—

(A) Contains the processes, procedures, terms, and conditions under which one NATO member nation will perform quality assurance for another NATO member nation or NATO organization;

(B) Standardizes the development, updating, and application of the Allied Quality Assurance Publications; and

(C) Has been ratified by the United States and other nations in NATO with certain reservations identified in STANAG 4107.

(ii) Departments and agencies shall follow STANAG 4107 when—

(A) Asking a NATO member nation to perform quality assurance; or

(B) Performing quality assurance when requested by a NATO member nation or NATO organization.

(2) *International military sales (non-NATO).* Departments and agencies shall—

(i) Perform quality assurance services on international military sales contracts or in accordance with existing agreements;

(ii) Ensure conformance to the technical and quality requirements of international military sales contracts;

(iii) Inform host or U.S. Government personnel and contractors on the use of quality assurance publications;

(iv) Specify appropriate quality requirements in contracts awarded to other countries; and

(v) Delegate quality assurance to the host government when satisfactory services are available.

(3) *Reciprocal quality assurance agreements.* A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign country may contain an annex that provides for the reciprocal performance of quality assurance services. MOUs should be checked to determine whether such an annex exists for the country where a defense contract will be performed. (See subpart 225.8 for more information about MOUs.)

[56 FR 36460, July 31, 1991, as amended at 63 FR 43890, Aug. 17, 1998; 63 FR 47439, Sept. 8, 1998]

246.407 Nonconforming supplies or services.

(f) If nonconforming material or services are discovered after acceptance, the defect appears to be the fault of the

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contractor, any warranty has expired, and there are no other contractual remedies, the contracting officer—

(i) Shall notify the contractor in writing of the nonconforming material or service;

(ii) Shall request that the contractor repair or replace the material, or perform the service, at no cost to the Government; and

(iii) May accept consideration if offered. For guidance on solicitation of a refund, see subpart 242.71.

(S-70) The head of the design control activity is the approval authority for acceptance of any nonconforming aviation critical safety items or nonconforming modification, repair, or overhaul of such items (see 209.270). Authority for acceptance of minor nonconformances in aviation critical safety items may be delegated as determined appropriate by the design control activity. See additional information at PGI 246.407.

[56 FR 36460, July 31, 1991, as amended at 67 FR 4208, Jan. 29, 2002; 69 FR 55989, Sept. 17, 2004; 70 FR 57190, Sept. 30, 2005]

246.408 Single-agency assignments of Government contract quality assurance.

246.408-70 Subsistence.

(a) The Surgeons General of the military departments are responsible for—

(1) Acceptance criteria;

(2) Technical requirements; and

(3) Inspection procedures needed to assure wholesomeness of foods.

(b) The contracting office may designate any Federal activity, capable of assuring wholesomeness and quality in food, to perform quality assurance for subsistence contract items. The designation may—

(1) Include medical service personnel of the military departments; and

(2) Be on a reimbursable basis.

246.408-71 Aircraft.

(a) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has certain responsibilities and prerogatives in connection with some commercial aircraft and of aircraft equipment and accessories (Pub. L. 85-726 (72 Stat 776, 49 U.S.C. 1423)). This includes the issuance of various

certificates applicable to design, manufacture, and airworthiness.

(b) FAA evaluations are not a substitute for normal DoD evaluations of the contractor's quality assurance measures. Actual records of FAA evaluations may be of use to the contract administration office (CAO) and should be used to their maximum advantage.

(c) The CAO shall ensure that—

(1) The supplies and services conform to the terms of the contract; and

(2) The contractor possesses any required FAA certificates and approvals prior to acceptance.

246.408-72 Construction projects.

(a) The department or agency responsible for the construction of a building or other structure is normally responsible for on-site inspection.

(b) The contract administration office performs quality assurance for construction materials and supplies acquired for military and civil works projects.

(c) The offices responsible for on-site inspection and for quality assurance of materials and supplies must coordinate their efforts to ensure the compatibility of buildings and structures and installed equipment.

246.470 Government contract quality assurance actions.

246.470-1 Planning.

In systematically planning Government contract quality assurance actions used to determine a contractor's compliance with contract quality requirements, consider—

(a) The relative importance of the product; and

(b) The variety of tasks required of the available resources.

246.470-2 Evidence of conformance.

Use objective evidence of quality to determine conformance to contract quality requirements.

246.470-3 Assessment of additional costs.

(a) Under the clause at FAR 52.246-2, Inspection of Supplies—Fixed-Price, the Government may charge the contractor for additional costs incurred by the Government due to delays in tests